

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 081215Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6041

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6468

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB, PFOR, MOPS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER: MILITARY SUBJECTS

1. DURING MY MAY 7 MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER I REMINDED HIM THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD AGREED ON APRIL 18 TO ASSIGN 3,000 CIVIL SERVANTS TO MILITARY JOBS THEREBY LIBERATING THE MILITARY FOR COMBAT. I SAID THAT THE UTILIZATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN THIS MANNER IS NOT ONLY ESSENTIAL TO GET THE MILITARY TO DO THE FIGHTING BUT ALSO TO SHOW THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE BURDEN OF THE WAR IS BEING EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED. I ASKED WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THIS PROGRAM. PRIME MINISTER ADMITTED THAT THE MINISTRIES HAD BEEN MOVING EXTREMELY SLOWLY IN COMING UP WITH NAMES BUT PROMISED TO PUT SOME PRESSURE BEHIND THIS PROGRAM.

2. I THEN CALLED PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO THE ICRC'S REQUEST TO INSPECT POWS. I MENTIONED THAT THE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP AT KOH KONG HAD BEEN FINANCED BY MAP FUNDS BUT THAT IT IS NOT YET IN OPERATION. IN THE MEANTIME THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS ARE HELD IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA. I SUGGESTED THAT THE ICRC BE AUTHORIZED TO VISIT THE POWS AT THEIR PRESENT LOCATION AWAITING THEIR TRANSFER TO KOH KONG. THE KHMER REPUBLIC, AS A SIGNATORY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON PRISONERS OF WAR, COULD PERHAPS USE SUCH A VISIT BY THE ICRC IN THE DEFENSE OF ITS UN SEAT SINCE
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THE OTHER SIDE HAS REFUSED THE GENEVA BASED RED CROSS

ACCESS TO ITS PRISONERS ALTOGEHTER. THE PRIME MINISTER
VOICED RESERVATIONS ABOUT INTERCEDING WITH THE MILITARY
ON THIS SUBJECT. HE CLAIMED ICRC WOULD LIKE TO CHANNEL
PORTION OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR HUMANITARIAN USE IN
CAMBODIA TO GRUNK CONTROLLED TERRIROTY AND SAID THIS IS
UNACCEPTABLE TO GKR. HE CLAIMED THAT ICRC WOULD NOT BE
"OBJECTIVE" IN REPORTING ON POW CONDITIONS IN AREA
UNDER GKR ADMINISTRATION AND THEREFORE GKR WAS
RELUCTANT TO AUTHORIZE ICRC TO VIEW POWS. AS A RESULT
OF MY INTEREST, HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER PROMISED TO
LOOK INTO SUBJECT AND KEEP ME INFORMED.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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